

# The Correspondent

Monthly Newsletter / January 2024

## WEEKLY CHURCH SERVICES\*

Saturdays: 5 pm  
Sundays: 8 am & 10 am  
10 am service will also be online

## WEEKLY CAMPUS SCHEDULE\*

**Food Pantry:** Mondays 10 am - Noon  
**Thrift Shop:** Wednesdays, Thursdays,  
Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm  
**AA meetings:** Mondays 7 pm  
Thursdays 10 am & 7 pm  
Sundays 7:30 pm  
**Choir Practice** Tuesdays 6:50 pm  
**Men's Breakfast** Tuesdays 8 am

## MONTHLY SCHEDULE\*

**Family Service** First Sunday  
**Senior Lunch** TBD  
**Vestry Meeting** Second Monday  
**Pizza Supper** Third Saturday

*\*check our website for details, changes, and updates  
[www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org)*

## St. Ann's Vestry

### **Wardens**

Nancy Koinoglou (2024)  
Randy Schultz (2023)

### **Members**

Don Hester (2026)  
Pat Osarchuk (2026)  
Carol Ann St. Lawrence (2024)  
Laura Sanchez (2025)  
Wendy Schmittzch (2024)  
Rich Maddox

Vestry normally meets once a month on  
Monday night.

## St. Ann's Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

Pursuant to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese  
of Long Island and the Religious Corporation Laws  
of the State of New York, notice is hereby given of  
the Annual Meeting of  
Saint Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, NY  
at 11:15 AM on  
**Sunday, January 21, 2024**

## Other Important Dates:

1/1/24 Office closed. Happy New Year!  
1/6/24 Joint Epiphany service in Patchogue at St. Paul's  
1/7/24 Family service 10 am  
1/7/24 House blessings weekends through Feb 11  
1/15/24 Office closed in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.  
1/16/24 Senior Luncheon  
1/20/24 No 5 pm service due to annual meeting  
1/21/24 No 8 am service due to annual meeting  
1/21/24 Annual Meeting following 10 am service  
2/4/24 Family service 10 am  
2/17/24 Pizza following 5 pm Service  
2/19/24 Office closed for President's Day



[www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org)

### SAINT ANN'S OFFICE

262 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Email: [office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org)  
Web: [www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org)  
Pho: 631-589-6522  
Fax: 631-589-6541  
Mon-Thurs 9:30am – 2pm  
(Until further notice)  
**Shawn Marie Cullity**  
Parish Administrator  
**Tim Laffin,**  
**Marge Rogers**

### CLERGY

The Reverend Jeffrey Neal  
Stevenson, Rector  
**Father Jeff**  
[frjeff@saint-anns.org](mailto:frjeff@saint-anns.org)  
202-309-5249

### THE CORRESPONDENT

631-589-6522  
[correspondent@saint-anns.org](mailto:correspondent@saint-anns.org)  
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St Ann's Episcopal Church  
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in Parish Hall, the church  
narthex, and USPS  
(request via church office)  
**Eileen Moran, Editor**

### FOOD PANTRY

262 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Pantry Coordinator:  
**Lynette Schultz**  
[office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org)  
631-589-6522  
Open Monday 10am - noon

### THRIFT SHOP

268 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Shop Manager:  
**Nanci Guerra**  
[office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org)  
631-589-6220  
Open Wednesday, Thursday, &  
Saturday 10am – 2pm

### CEMETERY

*The Garden of the Unforgotten*  
257 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
Cemetery Manager:  
**Janet Croce**  
[kiwi272626@aol.com](mailto:kiwi272626@aol.com)  
631-563-8203  
Open 7am - sundown

### SAINT ANN'S STAFF-MEMBERS\*

Minister of Music  
Finance Manager  
Treasurer  
Sexton  
Historian  
Webmaster  
Parish Administrator  
The Correspondent

**Kathy Senese** - [music@saint-anns.org](mailto:music@saint-anns.org)  
**Gayle Brady**  
**Tom Munkelwitz**  
**Lou Linbrunner**  
**Connie Currie** - [RadioGal2@optonline.net](mailto:RadioGal2@optonline.net) | 631-589-2700  
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**Shawn Marie Cullity** - [office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org)  
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\*use 631-589-6522 or [office@saint-anns.org](mailto:office@saint-anns.org) unless otherwise noted



## A Word from the Rector Father Jeffrey Stevenson, HoSM

During the season of Epiphany, many Anglicans, particularly us Episcopalians, are joining other Christians around the world in writing this ancient yet ever-changing Holy Graffiti over their door: 20+C+M+B+24. The letters C, M, B traditionally come from the names of the wisemen: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, whose arrival we acknowledge on Epiphany. (Their names appear in a Greek manuscript from 500 AD translated into Latin, which many biblical scholars consider the source of the names.) I, however, prefer the second meaning for these letters as abbreviations for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling.” The first and last numbers refer to the current year, and the plus signs in between represent the cross.

“Chalking the door,” as it is known, is an act of asking for Christ’s blessing on this house and all the people who live and visit this home. Europeans, especially Roman Catholics, have chalked their doors as part of Epiphany house blessings for centuries. The practice has become popular in the United States relatively recently. Chalking can be done simply with a short prayer or with songs, prayers, processions, incense, and holy water. Clergy or laypeople can do the chalking.

The Episcopal Church recognized the practice in the last edition of the Book of Occasional Services when the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music revised the book in 2018. They wanted to respect how the tradition had caught on and were already happening among individual Episcopal congregations.

The tradition’s origins are obscure, but the practice has its echoes in the story of the Israelite exiles in Egypt marking their doors with lamb’s blood so that the angel of the Lord will pass over their homes when it comes to kill the firstborn of Egypt. In Deuteronomy, the Israelites are instructed to write God’s words on their hearts, their gates, and the doorposts of their houses.

Last year, Noah and I traveled around Sayville, West Sayville, and Bayport and chalked a few houses of parishioners who asked for it. This year, we plan to do the same. If you are interested in a house blessing, please call, email, or text the office, and we will find a time to come and bless your home.

Epiphany Blessing,  
Fr. Jeff





Christmas Eve 4 pm Family Service (photo by Noah Stetzer)

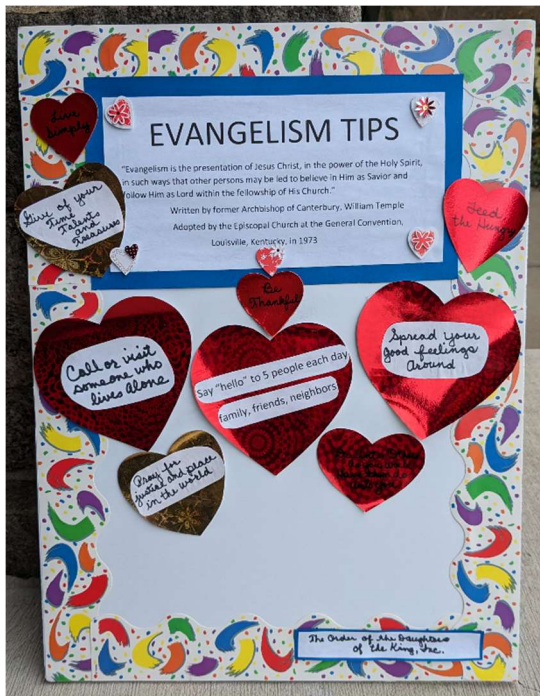


## In the News

A round-up of items announced in last month's parish emails and at weekend services.  
*Please submit announcements to the office by Wednesday each week.*

### Called to the Lord:

God bless **Marian Winter-Bartsch**.



**The Order of the Daughters of the King** has posted some **Evangelism Tips** in the narthex.

Keep a look out as more tips are added. So far, we have:

Say "Hello" to 5 people each day,  
 Call or visit someone who lives alone,  
 Spread your good feelings around,  
 Give of your time, talent and treasures,  
 Pray for justice & peace in the world,  
 Live simply,  
 Be thankful,  
 Spread your good feelings around,  
 Do unto others as you would have them do unto you, and  
 Feed the hungry.

These are things we all can do to make a difference for our community.

### **Bravo Foxtrot**, a new partnership for this year.

Bravo Foxtrot United Veterans Inc. is an organization established to provide stable housing, clothing, necessities, and holistic therapies to veterans in need, as well as to help veterans in need receive their VA benefits. This is an organization that Fr. Jeff has been following for the past year, and recently entered into a conversation with them about how St. Ann's might be able to support their mission through the thrift shop, food pantry, and other ways. Look for more information about this wonderful organization in upcoming emails.

**Would you like to help with worship?** Text the word SERVE to 631-212-2320 to sign up. Choose from Usher, Lector, Acolyte/Crucifer, Eucharistic Minister, Coffee Hour host or Altar Guild.

### **Cemetery Information:**

Please be aware that when it snows only the Main Asphalt Road gets plowed. The other gravel/dirt roads will only be plowed if needed to conduct a service for a new burial. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

To inquire about burials/interments at Saint Ann's Cemetery, contact:

Janet Croce, Cemetery Manager, 631 563-8203 | [kiwi272626@aol.com](mailto:kiwi272626@aol.com)



### Charitable Giving to St. Ann's in the New Year

Now that we have individually “closed the books” on 2023, some of us look forward with renewed enthusiasm to doing things differently (think efficiently, better, less hassle) in the year ahead. When it comes to church giving support, we have many ways to be smart with our offerings...

First, why give? Sharing our time, talents and treasure (especially the treasure) is more than a “thanksgiving” offering to God—it is acknowledging to God that He has a presence in our lives. Ultimately, we all must honestly answer to an all-knowing God who beckons us to lay down our earthly priorities and follow Him, become His Disciples, and strive to adopt His values and do His Will as His ambassadors in this world, loving God first, and our neighbor as well.

Following Jesus is not always easy; in fact, it is sometimes downright hard. Yet, it is important that we build a relationship with God through prayer, Scripture, Christ’s example, worship, and selfless giving of ourselves. In Scripture, both the Old Testament and New, we are given the standard of the tithe, which is to give 10 percent of what we have to God’s Glory. For many of us, **THIS IS HARD!** And though not all of us can get there, it helps if we break our offerings down into incremental baby steps over time, increasing our offerings by perhaps 1% each year. Please consider starting or continuing your personal spiritual journey that includes an incremental increase in giving in 2024.

Just as we ask our parishioners to tithe, the Diocese of Long Island asks a tithe from St. Ann’s. St. Ann’s has met our tithe to the diocese for a number of years now. Also, the Diocese of Long Island tithes 10% of its income to the national Church. Each of us tithes in order that ministries outside ourselves can thrive, up and down the chain.

So, how can we give, and do it more efficiently? The traditional means is “cash or check in the plate” on Sundays. Many people who prefer to give weekly receive giving envelopes, and if you would like to utilize envelopes for their relative confidentiality and convenience, please call the Church Office (589-6522) and ask Shawn Marie to have envelopes mailed to you. If you don’t have your own envelopes, consider grabbing an envelope as you come into the church from the narthex.

Another method in the electronic age is to use the BillPay feature in our banking apps or websites. You can schedule bank checks from your account to be mailed to St. Ann’s Episcopal Church, 262 Middle Road, Sayville, NY 11782, with the degree of frequency and the amount that you choose, and the bank pays for the stamp. A third method is available on St. Ann’s website, [www.saint-anns.org](http://www.saint-anns.org) (TIP: Bookmark this site for convenience in accessing current info, the Correspondent, and the links for giving, prayers, the Calendar, and many others) and find the green GIVE button on the lower right side of the web page. With little trouble, you can set up a contribution from your bank account or credit card with scheduling flexibility similar to BillPay on the bank app.

If you are over 70 ½, you are lucky, especially if you have a “Traditional” (taxable) IRA. There is a provision in the tax law that allows us to take a “Qualified Charitable Deduction” (QCD) from that IRA that goes to a charity such as St. Ann’s without Uncle Sam (and Aunt Kathy Hochul) taking a tax bite out of it. The amount you take out as a QCD reduces the amount you must take for your taxable Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), thereby reducing your taxable income for the year. The QCD becomes a tool you can control if you see that your RMD might push your income high enough to trigger a higher tax bracket or bigger Medicare premium deduction from your Social Security; you can increase your QCD to lower the RMD sufficiently to avoid the tax and Medicare “penalties” while more greatly benefitting your charity.

There are many other ways in which you may give to support the mission of St. Ann’s now and in the future. For example, if you are holding stocks with long-term appreciation, the stock holding may be given to the Church without you incurring capital gains. Other tools of estate planning incorporate similar strategies which will be the subject of future articles, but you should consider and perhaps research these in context with your specific situation and with a qualified tax advisor.

1. **Designating assets** (appreciated stocks, items of value, your residence or vacant land), in your will to St. Ann’s.
2. **Charitable Revocable or Irrevocable (Remainder) Trusts.**
3. Naming St. Ann’s as a beneficiary on a life insurance policy, retirement account or on savings/CD.
4. **Donor Advised Fund:** a charitable fund maintained by a public charity (a "sponsored organization") that is exclusively dedicated to charitable giving. When you contribute to a donor advised fund during your lifetime, you are eligible for an immediate income tax deduction. When assets pass to a DAF at your death, there may be estate or inheritance tax benefits. Once your DAF has been funded, you can then recommend grants to any IRS-qualified public charity.
5. **Charitable Gift Annuity** is a contract between a donor and a charity with the following terms: As a donor, you make a sizable gift to charity using cash, securities, or possibly other assets. In return, you become eligible to take a partial tax deduction for your donation, plus you receive a fixed stream of income from the charity for the rest of your life.

Now that we have started the year off with a bang, I pray that we may feel somewhat intrigued regarding giving strategies that not only benefit St. Ann’s but benefit ourselves as well by efficiently controlling and managing our giving and expressing our preferences through our wills, thereby freeing up time to do more of the Lord’s Work.

Have a great month!

Yours in Christ,  
Randy Schultz, Stewardship Chair

## SAINT ANN'S PRAYER REQUESTS

Alex, Ann, Beth, Bob, Brianna, Cathy, Claire, Debi, Easton, Erica, Gerald, Gloria, Jason, Jeff, Jimmy, Joseph, Julianna, Kathie, Kelly, Lauren, Leslie, Lisanne, Mary, Michael, Trudy and Violet.

Text the word *Prayer* to  
631-212-2320 to add names  
to the Saint Ann's Prayer List

Anniversaries in January.  
Congratulations!



- 15 Janet & Kevin Adam
- 19 Lynne & Roland Russell
- 20 Stacy & Donald May
- 21 Judy & Donald Hester
- 21 Joan & Anthony Palmieri
- 26 Carol Ann & John St. Lawrence



January Birthdays:



- 1 Juan Carlos Espinoza
- 1 Michael Hynes
- 4 Oliver Rivas
- 5 Aidan Donoghue
- 5 Diane Miller-Magnani
- 6 Stephanie Streek
- 8 John Cerillo
- 8 Richard Mugno
- 8 Stephen Vander Borgh
- 12 Dorothy Benedict
- 12 Donald MacKenzie
- 12 Theresa McGee
- 13 Brian Chalmers
- 13 Carol Ann St. Lawrence
- 14 Evan Meinsen
- 14 Grant Richards
- 14 Robert Sheppard
- 15 Daniel Limoli
- 15 Jeneane Patrovich



- 16 Carrie Whitehouse
- 17 Kevin Adam
- 17 Joseph Castelli
- 18 Eugene DeMott
- 19 Ryan Meinsen
- 19 Evan May
- 20 Geraldine Hoek
- 20 John St. Lawrence
- 21 Andrea Sanseviro
- 23 Jenny O'Connell
- 24 Christie Clark
- 25 Sean Mattimore
- 26 Ryan MacDonell
- 28 Mary Ann Davis
- 28 Jennifer Lembeck
- 28 Caryn Wells
- 29 William Kraft
- 30 Christie Strecker



## View from Behind the Pole

Eileen Moran

### We sing, we talk, we pray – join us!

When I moved to Sayville in my late twenties, I looked for a church to join and picked St. Ann's. I joined the choir since I love to sing. Some people feel that music is very important for our well-being and I agree. Believe me when I say, you don't have read music or be a super star to join the choir. When all our voices blend it is something special to be a part of. The hymns and anthems we sing raise our spirits and kindle good feelings all around. Based on feedback that Kathy has received I'm glad to report that many of you enjoy our ministry too. Thanks for speaking up; it's always nice to be appreciated.

And to my friends in the choir – please feel free to write something for this column. How did you come to St. Ann's and the choir? How long have you been singing? What does it mean to you? What is your favorite hymn?

**We practice Tuesdays at 6:50 p.m.** in the parish hall. **All are invited.** I hope to see you there! If you have any questions, you can call Kathy Senese at the church office or email her at [music@saint-anns.org](mailto:music@saint-anns.org)

Thanks to the Altar Guild members for all they do to prepare our Church for worship and special services like weddings, baptisms, and of course Christmas. The co-leaders are Linda Munkelwitz and Barbara Stahlberg. The members are Doris Ostrander, Marge Rogers, Catherine Baker, Pat Osarchuk, Cindy MacDonell, Diane Magnani, Sue Vermeer, John O'Neil and Linda Maddox. Karl Auerwater and his son Johnny from Bayport Flower House, arranged the flowers and hung the greens for Christmas. Thank you Karl & Johnny.



Photo by Laura Sanchez

*"Gracious God, your Son taught his followers to travel lightly through life . . .  
Give us the courage and wisdom  
to become prudent faithful caretakers and managers  
of the gifts of the earth entrusted to us . . . Amen"*  
Creative Care Retreat 2023

### **Happy New Year to one and all!**

*To begin each year, as is tradition I make new goals.*

*I'll eat healthier, work out more, speak kinder to all who I meet, etc. A couple years ago I started including a new environmental thing that I could do each year.*

- Year One - I stopped buying Laundry Detergent in a plastic bottle. You would be amazed at the number of choices there are. Most choices are available online, but powder detergent in a box is sold in stores and laundry sheets are stocked in at least one local business.
- Year Two – I stopped buying dish soap in a plastic bottle. There are powder dish soaps that arrive in a paper sleeve and liquid soaps sold in metal containers.
- Year Three – I stopped buying hand soap. I still get clean not to worry. There are little soap discs that come in a sealed paper envelope that are added to water in a bottle and presto hand soap.
- Current Year – I look for environmentally packaged goods of all products. Thank you cards that come in a card board box, milk and juice containers made of cardboard to name a few.

*Our world is calling us to be better caretakers of our world, especially here in the United States where we produce an overwhelming amount of garbage. It is estimated we **each** throw out over four pounds of garbage each day of the year!\**

*There are many things we can do, but not all of us have the time or interest to get involved in making drastic changes in our world or helping in giant cleanups. Each and every one of us **can** make small changes in our purchases. This is the most powerful tool we have.*

*I hope in 2024 you will join me in adding one new goal that involves taking good care of the earth entrusted to all of us!*

**Please share your ideas...**

Please feel free to email your ideas to me,

**Marie Wipper at: [k2wippe@aol.com](mailto:k2wippe@aol.com), using "Creation Care" as the subject.**



## SHARE YOUR JOY AND GOOD NEWS



Granddaughters of Richard & Linda Maddox celebrate success at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Oireachtas. Dancing with Mulvilhill Lynch school of Irish dance, Sophia placed 6th in the under the age of 10 division for a traditional set dance. She competed against 53 other competitors. Nora placed 1st in her division, under 8, for a traditional set, surpassing 51 other dancers! This is the second year they have participated in this competition.

Peg & Bob Flanagan's first great granddaughter Sloane enjoyed high tea at the Plaza Hotel with her mom Elizabeth.





## THRIFT SHOP LUNCHEON

Thank you to all our volunteers. The Thrift shop needs and appreciates you!



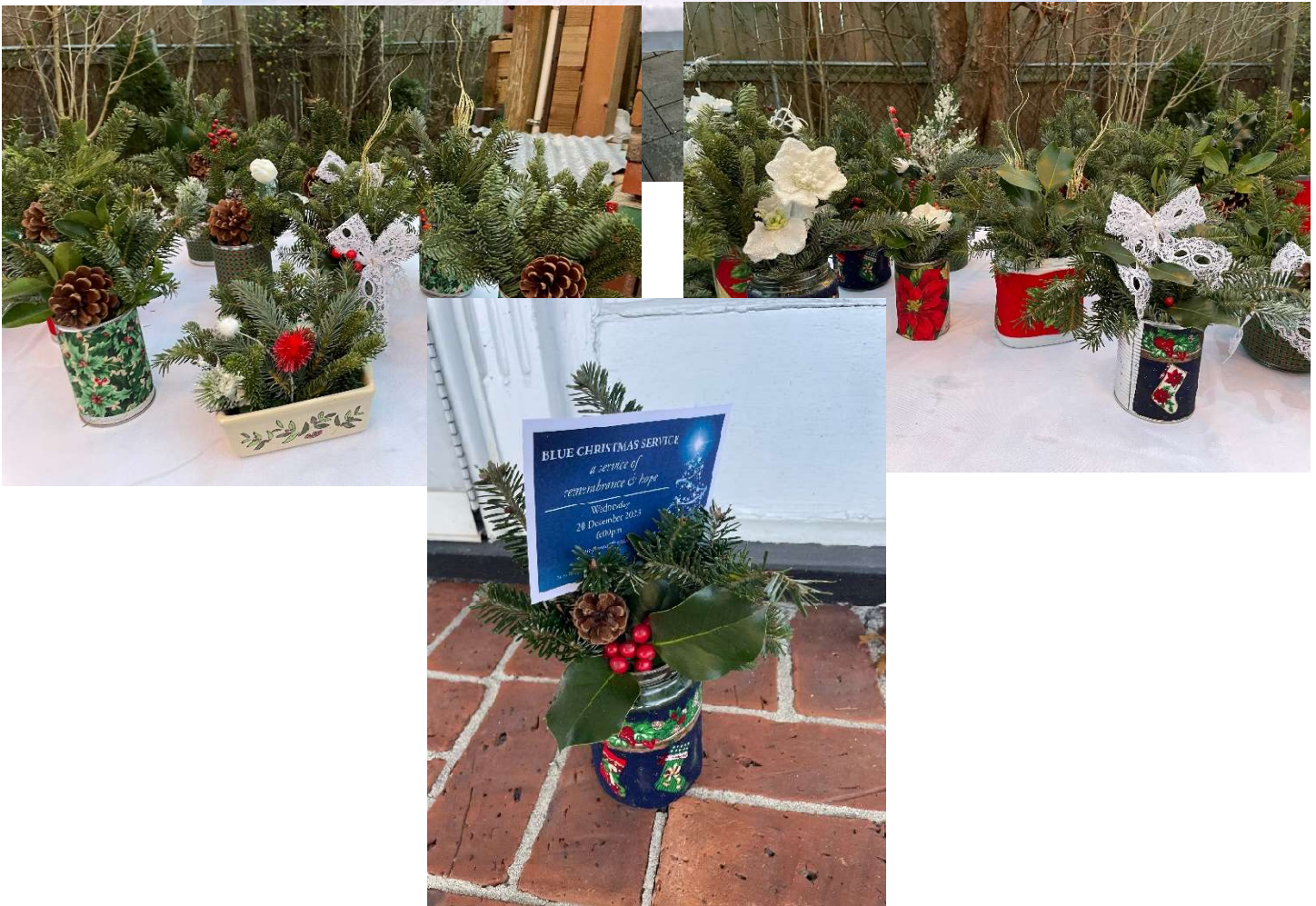






# Advent Greetings

Ellen Stoll and her daughter Sally Stoll-DePompeo delivered Advent greetings for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. Sally delivered 22 arrangements and Ellen mailed 10 cards to parishioners who have moved out of town. They included the announcement about the Blue Christmas service in all.





Don't miss the senior luncheon on Tuesday 1/16 at noon in the Parish Hall. Please bring an item or two for the food pantry.

Look for a sign-up sheet in the parish hall.

\*\*\*\*\*



Happy New Year to all. I wish everyone good health, peace, joy and happiness. I hope you like the photo of the bride & groom (page 8) being showered by rice on their wedding day. That's my parents Ronnie & Jack Lawlor. Send in a photo of **your** wedding or anniversary.

This is **OUR** newsletter so let's make it the best we can.

Send your birthday & anniversary dates. Share your good news about births, baptisms, graduations, weddings, new jobs, awards or anything else you think the parish would enjoy reading about. Send a photo. Contribute a poem or short essay. Write your reaction to a sermon or a hymn.

Send ideas for Marie's Creation Corner: **k2wipper@aol.com**; subject "Creation Care".

Everything else should be emailed to **correspondent@saint-anns.org**.

Documents should be in Microsoft Word format or as text in the email.

Please observe deadline which is the **3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month**.

*Eileen Moran*

Deadline for the next issue:  
Friday 1/19/24

Saint Ann's Episcopal Church  
262 Middle Road  
Sayville NY 11782  
—change service requested—

# The Correspondent

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to spread the gospel of  
Christ in thought, word, and deed to  
our community and the world.